

In re Patent Application of
ROLANDI
Serial No. 09/881,581
Filed: June 14, 2001

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful and thorough examination of the present application, for correctly withdrawing the previous rejections of the claims, for correctly noting that dependent Claims 61-62 recite patentable subject matter, and for allowing Claims 96-102.

Applicant has amended independent Claim 50 to more clearly define the claimed invention over the prior art. Applicant has also amended dependent Claims 56 and 58-62, and canceled dependent Claim 57 for consistency.

Applicant submits that all claims are patentable, and presents arguments and amendments herein supporting such patentability.

I. The Amended Claims

Amended independent Claim 50 is directed to a memory card for storing data, and for operating in cooperation with at least one of an external acquisition system and an external processing system. The memory card may comprise a casing, and an integrated circuit encapsulated within the casing for storing the data. The integrated circuit comprising a non-volatile electrically programmable memory that is erasable by exposure to electromagnetic radiation for permitting a non-electrical erasure of the stored data. The casing may have an aperture aligned with the non-volatile electrically programmable memory for permitting selective exposure to the electromagnetic radiation to thereby erase the stored data.

Claim 50 has been amended to recite the integrated circuit may further include input/output terminals for

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receiving and sending the data, an additional memory for storing a plurality of microinstructions for controlling the electrically programmable non-volatile memory, a decoder connected to the additional memory for converting a command signal to a selection signal for selecting at least one of the plurality of microinstructions, and a multiplexer selectively connecting the input/output terminals to the additional memory and to the non-volatile electrically programmable memory. Support for this claim amendment is found in Figure 5 and paragraphs 73-75 of the present application.

II. The Amended Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claim 50 and dependent Claims 56-60 over Nazari in view of Ishii et al. Nazari discloses a device comprising a plurality of UV-erasable memory chips 4. Each memory chip is enclosed in a package surrounding the memory chip, the package also including a quartz window 6 for exposing the memory chip to UV radiation for erasure. The device includes a top cover 8 with a plurality of openings 10 aligned with the respective quartz windows of the plurality of memory chips, and a sliding window shield 12 cooperating therewith for protecting the memory chips from accidental erasure. As shown in Figure 4, reproduced below, Nazari also discloses an embodiment where the device serves as a memory card including UV erasable memory chips.

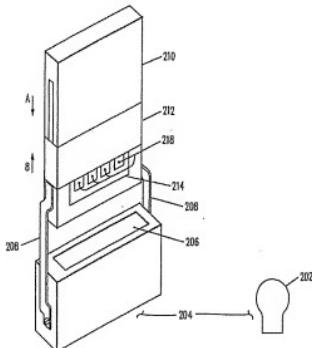


Figure 4 of Nazari

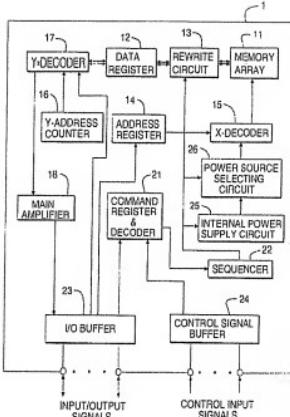


Figure 1 of Ishii et al.

Ishii et al. discloses a flash memory integrated circuit comprising an I/O buffer 23 for handling address and data signals, a command register and decoder block 21 for holding commands from an external CPU, and a control circuit 22 coupled to the block for storing a series of microinstructions for executing commands. (Col. 6, lines 31-56; and Figure 1, reproduced above).

Applicant has amended Claim 50 to recite the integrated circuit including a multiplexer selectively connecting the input/output terminals to the additional memory and to the non-volatile electrically programmable memory. The applied prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest the above noted claim feature. Differently, the data and address

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signals of Ishii et al. must be processed and are not coupled to the memory array.

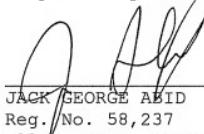
Accordingly, it is submitted that amended independent Claim 50 is patentable over the prior art. Its respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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